Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is the issue price of salt at the depot.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was it sold at Rs. 2—10—0 before the middle of Karkadagam ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I do not know what was the issue price before the middle of Karkadagam.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know why it was sold at less than the cost price?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Gavernment):* The expenditure incurred during an experimental stage cannot be treated as the basis for fixing the issue price of any commodity.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* Is the operation going on this year also ?

Mr. C. J. Mathaw *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the Budget Estimate ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Rs. 36.000.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is it not better than other salts ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, in point of purity in particular.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Why was it not given for human consumption ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Since the manufacture of salt is only in an experimental stage even now, the salt produced was used only for industrial purposes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Has it been analysed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it good for human consumption ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

RAMAN MENON, MALIYAKKAL—LATE VILLAGE PEON—PAYMENT OF GRATUITY AND ARREAR PAY

183. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to State.—

(*a*) when did Maliyakkal Raman Menon s/o Kalyani Amma, Village peon, Kanipayyur Village, who was working in Porkolam Village, Talapalli Taluk die ;

(*b*) the number of his dependents who are his heirs;

(*c*) whether the gratuity, arrears of pay and security amount were paid to his heirs;

(*d*) if so, when;

(*e*) the number of petitions received from the widow of the deceased peon;

(*f*) the financial condition of the dependents of the deceased village peon ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) On 5th Thulam 1119 M.E.

(*b*) Eight (Six children, his wife and mother).

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The question does not arise in view of answer to (c).

(*e*) Two, (1) 2nd Dhanu 1119 (2) 16th Edavam 1119.

(*f*) Poor.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What is the reason for the inordinate delay in paying the gratuity and arrears of pay, especially to such a poor family consisting of six children, a widow and a mother ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The liabilities had to be ascertained. There were claims from other quarters like Co-operative Society. That was the reason.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Even then is it not a great delay ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In the matter of ascertaining liabilities it does take time and a little more caution is to be exercised.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Diwan Peishkar will see that such cases are expedited ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Even in this particular case we have released the security but three months have to elapse for actual payment.

PANKUPATTAM AND VARAM LEASE—RECOGNITION BY GRAIN PURCHASING TAHSILDARS

184. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have noted the News Item No. 5 in the "Cochin Express," Page 2, dated 27th Kanni 1120 reported by the local reporter at Trichur under date 26th Kanni 1120 ;

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